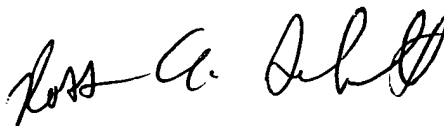


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends original first Claim 9 to produce a new amended claim that is not multiply dependent in order to reduce official fees. Once examination on the merits has begun, the Applicants may elect to amend newly amended Claim 9 to make this claim multiply dependent or to add additional claims to this application to provide coverage similar to, broader than, or narrower than the present claims.

Further, this Preliminary Amendment renumbers the claims after the first Claim 9, since claim numbers 8 and 9 are reused. The claim numbers after the original second Claim 8 have been renumbered to start with Claim 10. The dependencies within the claims have also been renumbered. The Applicants submit that this renumbering of the claims does not effect the scope of these claims.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross A. Schmitt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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